

HOMER ANDREW DAVIS

Homer Andrew Davis was born in Provo, Utah October 22, 1858. He was the son of Joshua Davis and Johannah Anderson Davis. He was the oldest child of six children. He was a strong, healthy child. He was born on a rug in front of the kitchen stove as she was preparing supper for her and Joshua.

He grew up in Provo and worked for his father on the farm. He was ten years old before he owned a pair of shoes. He tells how he would wrap his feet in sacks and warm them then run for the barn, jump in the manure pile to warm them again then milk the cow and run for the house again. The snow would be knee deep.

Homer's mother was always in his thoughts, he loved her very much. As a child and as a man he worked summers herding cattle for Bishop Tanner on the mountain slopes east of Provo. That is where he got his first shoes and a nice pair of trousers, it rained and he got his pants wet, they started to stretch so he cut them off then the sun came out and dried them, then they shrank up, he was out a pair of trousers, the Bishop had a good laugh, the next day he brought Homer another pair.

Bishop Tanner payed him in the Fall, this helped them very much, but this one Fall, Homer decided to keep his money before he had always gave it to his father, so when the Bishop brought him home he asked him to pay him before he got home. Bishop Tanner payed him in quarters and half dollars. Homer took off his hat and put it in it, when he got home he told the Bishop, "I will see you later," and run for the house, he came in, threw a rug back, jurked up a board in the floor and put the money there. In came his father. "Homer did Bishop pay you?" "Nope!" The father stayed a while then went home. His mother scolded him and he told her, "We are going to have something this win-

ter, now you can have a new dress and some shoes for church. I am tired of seeing you bare foot." Grandmother bought the cloth and made her a dress and the girls too and Homer was a very happy boy. From this time on Homer saw that his mother was cared for.

Homer went to school for a short time, for what we call reading, this was under Karl Measer. His mother did the homesteading for his father so it was out in the open spaces for him. Homer has told many Indian stories to us, how they would scamper for shelter often.

Homer was with his mother when she stayed on the homestead where the Iron-ton Plant is now, that was where Dennis, the next son, was born. He couldn't remember too much of that but when they went to the second homestead he can remember this was out west of Orem now the site of Geneva Steel, there they lived with their mother, there were three boys now as Norman had come too. They lived in a little one room house, the door faced the South, a stream of water was at the back of the house. One of the older brothers lived with them, Martin Joshua, he was always with them as the Indians were quite a menace.

This one day the Indians came early, they stayed all day. "We all stayed in the house Mother and Martin were very nervice, he being around 18, big in statue was a help to us little fellows." Homer was about seven at this time. "The Indians were there when evening came Mother said as soon as dark came we would go to Provo and we did." Martin took Homer and Dennis's hands and Grandmother carried Norman. They crossed through sage brush over the Bench to the river then to Provo Fort, they arrived about four o'clock in the morning.

The next morning the Indians and settlers came to battle, this was the last battle with the Indians in Provo area.

Time passed and the boys soon grew up they worked hard, they cut cedar post over on the west mountain in the winter and worked in the timber in the winter. He tells us that he and Bird were coming out, they had been back in the timber

for six weeks, when they got to the hot pots they decided to take a bath. Homer got his clothes off first, he jumped in and right out the other side. Bird followed and did the same. Bird looked at Homer and said, "Why didn't you tell me it was hot?" Homer said, "One of us was as dirty as the other now we are both clean." They laughed and went on their way.

Now Birdell and Homer wanted some land so their brother Albert and their father, Joshua Davis, took up land and the two brothers proved upon it. They were seventeen, Birdell was married, Homer was single, they came out and built a two room house, it still stands, there they lived for ten years. They were always very nice to one another.

They cleared the ground, they helped with the first canal around the edge of the Bench so as to irrigate their crops, it was called the Hupper canal later the West Union canal.

Then Homer built him a rock house just below the Orem railroad.

Just north of their land Amos Skinner took up a section of land and Homer met and courted his daughter, Mary Ellen Skinner. They were married February 8, 1885 in Provo later they went to the Manti Temple, October 29, 1890 and was sealed, they had two children at this time, Mary and Andrew, they were sealed to their parents. They went by stage coach, it took them 3 days to go and return. Mary Ellen said many times it was her happiest time in her life, they were good L.D.S. parents.

To this union were born seven children, Violet their second girl died at eighteen months and their third child, Ervin was killed by the Orem electric car when he was twenty-one.

This was a terrible shock to the Davis's, he was killed 25 September 1914. It seemed that Mary Ellen never recovered from this tragedy, she being a very sick person. She had brights disease, she lived three years after, she died 3 September 1917. After her death Father lived with Stanley and Golda for a

while. He went to Provo Canyon to work for Utah Power & Light Company, he lived with Mary (May) and Frank Schemensky. Frank worked for the company too.

Homer was very good to his aged mother, never went to Provo that he didn't to and see her and take her something nice. He worked for Utah Power & Light from 1918 until 1928 September 4 he retired and came home to the farm. Orpha, a young lady now, kept house for him.

Orpha married Reed Beardall 24 September 1930 and Homer lived with them. He was always mindful of his family and a very good father. He was always there to give advice to all.

He passed away at the home of his daughter Mary (May) Davis Schemensky on the 14 December 1936 at the age of 78, he was buried in the Provo cemetery beside his beloved wife and children. He loved to fish and hunt and was a very good marksman.

He always told his family to look for the good and then work to earn it.